

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A network-based marketplace including:
an information server to present listings to users, each listing belonging to a category and having one or more associated attributes; and,
a database component having an attribute value table, the attribute value table to store attribute values for a plurality of the listings independent of the category to which each listing of the plurality of the listings belongs.
2. The network-based marketplace of claim 1, including an attribute map table to store attribute map values, each attribute map value to determine how a particular attribute value is displayed with an associated listing.
3. The network-based marketplace of claim 2, wherein each attribute map value is to determine a position of the attribute value within an output display.
4. The network-based marketplace of claim 2, wherein each attribute map value is to determine a display length of the attribute value within an output display.
5. The network-based marketplace of claim 1, including an attribute validity table having attribute validity values, the attribute validity values to determine validity of the attribute values associated with a particular listing.
6. The network-based marketplace of claim 5, wherein the attribute validity table includes maximum range values and minimum range values, the maximum range values and minimum range values to determine a valid numerical range of an attribute value associated with a particular listing.

7. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon a database for a network-based marketplace, the database including:
- one or more tables to store listings, each listing belonging to a category and having one or more associated attributes; and,
 - an attribute value table to store attribute values for a plurality of the listings independent of the category to which each listing of the plurality of the listings belongs.
8. The machine-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the database further includes an attribute map table to store attribute map values, each attribute map value to determine how a particular attribute value is displayed with an associated listing.
9. The machine-readable medium of claim 8, wherein each attribute map value is to determine the position of the attribute value within an output display.
10. The machine-readable medium of claim 8, wherein each attribute map value is to determine the display length of the attribute value within an output display.
11. The machine-readable medium of claim 7, wherein the database further includes an attribute validity table having attribute validity values, the attribute validity values to determine validity of the attribute values associated with a particular listing.
12. The machine-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the attribute validity table includes maximum range values and minimum range values, the maximum range values and minimum range values to determine a valid numerical range of an attribute value associated with a particular listing.

13. A method including:
receiving a request for a listing, the listing belonging to a category and having one or more associated attributes;
retrieving the requested listing from a database table;
retrieving attribute values for the associated attributes of the listing from an attribute value table, the attribute value table storing attribute values for a plurality of listings independent of the category to which each listing of the plurality of listings belongs; and,
displaying the listing and the associated attribute values.
14. The method of claim 13, including:
retrieving one or more attribute map values from an attribute map table, the attribute map values to determine how a particular attribute value is displayed with an associated listing.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the attribute map values determine a position of the attribute value within an output display.
16. The method of claim 14, wherein the attribute map values determine a display length of the attribute value within an output display.
17. A method including:
storing a listing in a table, the listing belonging to one of a plurality of categories and having one or more associated attributes; and
storing an attribute value for the listing in an attribute value table, wherein the attribute value table is to store attribute values for a plurality of listings independent of a respective category to which any single listing belongs.
18. The method of claim 17, including:

storing an attribute map value in an attribute map table, the attribute map value to determine how the attribute value is displayed with an associated listing.

19. The method of claim 18, including:

storing an attribute validity value in an attribute validity table, the attribute validity value to determine validity of the attribute value associated with the listing.

20. The method of claim 18, including:

storing maximum range values and minimum range values in the attribute validity table, the maximum range values and minimum range values to determine a valid numerical range of the attribute value associated with the listing.